

Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

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UNCLAS TUNIS 6922

DEPT PASS NSCE FOR GEN SKOWCROFT AND NESSEN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: SECVISIT TUNIS - SECRETARY KISSINGER'S

DEPARTURE STATEMENT ON NOVEMBER 9, 1974

FOLLOWING IS AN UNCLEARED TRANSCRIPT OF SECRETARY'S
STATEMENT PREPARED AFTER DEPARTURE:

QUOTE: LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WE HAVE HAD A VERY
BRIEF BUT VERY WARM AND CORDIAL AND USEFUL VISIT HERE.
THE PRESIDENT AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER WHO WERE IN RABAT
EXPLAINED TO ME THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF THE SIGNIFICANCE
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE ARAB CHIEFS OF STATE. I TOLD
TUNISIAN FRIENDS THAT THE U.S. BELIEVES THAT PROGRESS
TOWARDS A JUST AND LASTING PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST WAS
POSSIBLE ON A STEP-BY-STEP BASIS ON WHICH THE U.S. WOULD
BE PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE IF THE PARTIES INVOLVED WERE
PREPARED TO MAKE THE EFFORT. PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA EXPLAINED
TO ME THAT IN HOW OWN CAREER, HE PROCEEDED STEP BY STEP
AGAINST MANY OBSTACLES AND SOME CRITICISM AND FINALLY
PREVAILED IN HIS OBJECTIVES, AND WE WILL COME TO DRAW
COURAGE FROM HIS EXAMPLE.

THE FOREIGN MINISTER EXPLAINED TO ME THE IM-
PORTANT DISCUSSIONS THAT TUNISIA ARRANGED BETWEEN
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THE FOREIGN MINSTER OF PORTUGAL AND THE LEADERS OF

THE INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT IN ANGOLA THAT ARE TAKING PLACE IN TUNISIA AT THIS MOMENT. THE FOREIGN MINISTER ALSO ARRANGED AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ME TO MEET THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF PORTUGAL TO DISCUSS BOTH THE BILATERAL PORTUGUESE-U.S. RELATIONS AND THE IMPORTANT NEGOTIATIONS GOING ON HERE IN TUNISIA. I BELIEVE THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS NOW GOING ON IN TUNISIA CAN BE OF HISTORIC IMPORTANCE AND WILL BE SUPPORTED BY THE U.S. AND I WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF TUNISIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF TUNISIA FOR HAVING TAKEN THIS IMPORTANT INITIATIVE.

FINALLY WE REVIEWED THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN TUNISIA AND THE U.S. WHICH ARE EXCELLENT. WE ARE HERE AMONG FRIENDS AND OLD FRIENDS. WE AGREED TO BEGIN DISCUSSIONS ABOUT SETTING UP A COMMISSION BETWEEN TUNISIA AND THE U.S. TO EXPLORE WAYS IN WHICH THIS RELATIONSHIP CAN BE FURTHER STRENGTHENED IN MANY FIELDS.

IT REMAINS FOR ME ONLY TO THANK THE GOVERNMENT OF TUNISIA, ITS GREAT PRESIDENT, ITS FOREIGN MINISTER FOR HAVING ARRANGED ON SHORT NOTICE SUCH A WARM AND SUCCESSFUL VISIT. UNQTE.
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